

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending in the present application. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-49 will be still pending in this application. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-49 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830 issued to Sigler et al. (Sigler). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Per Claims 3, 16, 28, and 40, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining a list of current users in the net." The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses these limitations.

Per Claims 4, 17, 29, and 41, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net." Sigler only discloses "'clear mode' on an individual MET basis . . . for the specific MET. . . ." (Col. 28, lines 1-5). The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses clear mode or secure mode for a net, as claimed herein.

Per Claims 5, 18, 30, and 42, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state" in col. 30, line 54 to col. 32, line 25, or anywhere else in Sigler. The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses active state or dormant state for a net, as claimed herein.

Per Claims 6, 19, 31, and 43, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining a net address." The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses this claimed limitation.

Per Claims 7, 20, 32, and 44, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme." The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses this claimed limitation.

Per Claims 8, 21, 33, and 45, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose "maintaining a use status, the user

status including talking or listening.” The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses this claimed limitation.

Per Claims 10, 23, 35, and 47, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose “the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.” Sigler only discloses a “priority message.” (col. 9, line 50). The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses this claimed limitation.

Per Claims 11, 24, 36, and 48, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose “maintaining a user Internet protocol (IP) address.” There is no mention of even Internet in Sigler. The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses the limitation.

Per Claims 12, 25, 37, and 49, Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose “maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.” The Examiner has not shown where Sigler allegedly discloses this claimed limitation.

Therefore, since Sigler does not disclose at least the above limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 9, 2004

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